

Serial No.: 10/799,956
Docket No.: BUE 0001 PA/41107.4

Remarks

DRAWING OBJECTIONS

The Examiner has objected to the drawings for failure to show the "lateral taper" of claim 5. The Applicant respectfully directs the Examiner's attention to original FIGS. 7A and 7B, where the lateral taper **120T, 130T** of the upper surfaces of the seat and back sections **120, 130** is clearly shown and labeled. In addition, this taper is described in the first full paragraph of page 12 of the original specification. Accordingly, the Applicant stresses that the lateral taper is both adequately depicted in the drawings and described in the specification, and accordingly requests that the present objection to the drawings and the specification be removed.

CLAIM OBJECTIONS

Claim 15 is objected to for an informality regarding the use of the trade name "Velcro".
Claim 15 has been amended, using language suggested by the Examiner.

Claim 26 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

REJECTION UNDER 35 USC 112, ¶1

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claim 5 under 35 USC 112, first paragraph, for failure to comply with the enablement requirement. The Applicant respectfully submits that the nature of the lateral taper is both clear and adequately described, as previously discussed above in conjunction with the drawing objection, where both the original specification at page 12 and original FIGS. 7A and 7B show the tapers **120T** and **130T** on the seat and back sections **120, 130**,

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130. Because the present application, taken *in toto* as originally filed, points to the claimed configuration of claim 5, the Applicant respectfully submits that 35 USC 112, first paragraph is satisfied.

REJECTION UNDER 35 USC 102

Claims 1-4, 22 and 24 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Lemaire (US 3,897,102) and Rowland (US 4,606,086). Claims 1-2, 4, 22 and 24 are rejected as being anticipated by Finkelstein (US 4,891,854); Prager (US 4,941,222); Prager (US 5,327,713); Sisti (US2002/0079731); Howard (US 5,926,871); Umbrianna (US 5,466,039); Kostuk (US 5,624,157); Robillard et al (US 5,829,080); Boggs (US 5,950,259) and Diamond (US 6,059,365). The majority of the claims are also rejected as being anticipated by Johnson (US 5,222,779); Jackson et al (US2004/0108757 and Sewell (US 5,946,749).

REJECTION UNDER 35 USC 103

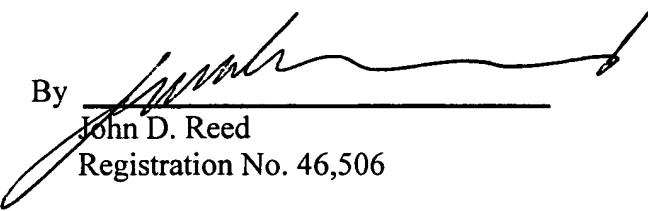
Claim 6 is rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Diamond in view of Bohme (US 4,083,068). Claims 1, 4 and 6 are rejected as being unpatentable over Bohme in view of Diamond. Claim 9 is rejected as being unpatentable over Diamond in view of Gibriano (US 5,524,957) and Hofmeyer (US 5,251,956). Claim 9 is rejected as being unpatentable over Sewell in view of Gibriano and Hofmeyer. Claim 10 is rejected as being unpatentable over Diamond in view of Lindsey et al (US 6,109,685). Claims 14-15 are rejected as being unpatentable over Jackson et al in view of Rocha (US 5,275,463). Claims 16-18, 20-21, 23, 25 and 30 are rejected as being unpatentable over Rowland in view of Sroub (US 4,264,102) and Guleserian (US 5,297,850). Claims 27-29 are rejected as being unpatentable over Rowland and Lemaire.

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By this response, claim 22 has been amended to incorporate the limitations from claims 25 and 26. The Applicant is of the belief that the present amendment satisfies the indication in the present Office Action by the Examiner that such an amendment would present allowable subject matter. Claims 1, 2 16, 21, 25 and 26 have been cancelled, while new claims 31 and 32 have been added. Claims 3 through 15 and 17 through 20 now depend (either directly or indirectly) from amended claim 22, while new claims 31 and 32 also depend from amended claim 22. For the same reason as discussed in claim 22, these dependent claims are also believed to be allowable. Independent method claim 27 has been amended to incorporate limitations similar to those of amended claim 22, and is likewise believed to be allowable over the art of record, as well as claims 28 through 30 that depend therefrom.

The Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned to resolve efficiently any formal matters or to discuss any aspects of the application or of this response.

Respectfully submitted,
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